

WASHINGTON POST

DATE 4 OCT-88NEW YORK TIMES A14

WALL STREET J.

WASHINGTON TIMES

USA TODAY

STAT

## Seoul Leader Says He Is Willing to Visit the North

BY SUSAN CHIRIA

Special to The New York Times

TOKYO, Tuesday, Oct. 4 — In another effort to defuse tensions with North Korea, President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea said today that he would be willing to travel to North Korea to meet with Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader.

In a speech scheduled for delivery today to South Korea's legislature, Mr. Roh said he accepted Mr. Kim's Sept. 8 invitation to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. But Mr. Roh did not address any of the conditions for such a meeting, making it unclear whether it would actually come to pass.

Delegates from the North and South met for the first time in nearly three years this August, but failed to reach any agreements. The two sides are scheduled to meet again at the border village of Panmunjom on Oct. 13. Mr. Roh has made improving relations with the North a top priority, and he pledged in his speech that he would soon outline a new program for North-South relations that would include some of the North's proposals. While he offered no specific details, South Korean press reports have indicated that South Korean leaders have discussed with the United States the possibility of meetings with the North.

South Korea's first extended contact

with Communist nations since its battles with China during the Korean War. Mr. Roh pledged to continue pursuing ties with the Communist bloc. He said his Government would work to establish cultural exchanges, air routes, shipping lines and trade, including the lucrative development of Siberia. The end of the Olympics also brings to a close an informal political truce that subordinated domestic conflicts to the smooth hosting of the Games. Although most South Koreans believe the changes, although he did not say when or how he would do so. Such a national referendum or vote of confidence has been a sensitive political issue, although opposition leaders in recent weeks have all but dropped their demands for a referendum. They apparently fear that Mr. Roh would win enough support to slow the momentum gained when opposition parties won a

But President Roh, elected last December in the nation's first free elections in 16 years, sought to allay these fears by pledging to continue moving toward democracy, saying the nation had already ended a "long, dark and dreadful night."

Seeks a Vote of Confidence

He said he would submit to a public judgment on how well he was keeping his promises to introduce democratic changes, although he did not say when or how he would do so. Such a national referendum or vote of confidence has been a sensitive political issue, although opposition leaders in recent weeks have all but dropped their demands for a referendum. They apparently fear that Mr. Roh would win enough support to slow the momentum gained when opposition parties won a

last majority of votes in legislative elections this past April.

President Roh also pledged to cooperate with legislative committees in

investigating corruption and abuses of power during the previous Government — another crucial political issue ahead that will pit Government that includes many holdovers from the past

against a newly emboldened opposition.

At the same time, however, Mr. Roh

served notice that the Government

would crack down on what he called

"revolutionaries" determined to over-

throw democracy and capitalism.

"Activities to agitate for or incite a

class revolution and other activities to

overthrow the democratic order must

be forcefully checked according to the

law," Mr. Roh said.